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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/182, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of that resolution, properly taking into account the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, taking into account the thematic areas addressed by the Assembly in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex). Thematic areas include health-related issues and drug-related crime, cross-cutting issues such as human rights, new trends in addressing the world drug problem and international cooperation on development-oriented drug policy. The report also presents information on the preparatory process and outcome of the special session itself, as well as action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, and technical support provided to Member States in the respective thematic areas.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/182, provides an overview of the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control and lays out examples of the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to Member States in controlling drugs and combating crime, as part of a United Nations system-wide effort to promote the rule of law, justice, human rights, health and development. The preparations for and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held from 19 to 21 April 2016, are also reflected in the report. The report, following the structure of the outcome document, highlights the efforts undertaken by UNODC to implement the provisions of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem".[1] Recommendations are made regarding the world drug situation and the work of the Office thereon.

2. The action of the Office is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the relevance of UNODC mandates that are linked to a number of Sustainable Development Goals and their targets.[2] In implementing its mandates the Office follows an integrated programme approach, by which UNODC operates at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

3. At the global level, UNODC implements thematic programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. At the regional and interregional levels, UNODC promotes cross-border cooperation and regional and interregional programmes and initiatives among partner countries. At the national level, the Office assists Member States in improving their normative, institutional and operational capacity. The Office undertakes its work in close cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental stakeholders.

II. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem

1. Preparatory process for the special session led by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided to convene a special session on the world drug problem to review progress in the implementation of the

[1] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

[2] Detailed information of the contribution by UNODC in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is contained in conference room paper E/CN.7/2016/CRP.1-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.1.

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. In its resolution 69/200, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, would lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner.[3]

5. The Commission started the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in March 2014, following its fifty-seventh regular session. In December of the same year, the Commission held its first special segment on the preparations for the special session at its reconvened fifty-seventh session. At that session, the Commission decided to establish a Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session, to be in charge of preparing and conducting the Commission's special segments on the preparations for the special session and of reaching out to the many different stakeholders engaged in the preparatory process.

6. To ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, a website for the special session (www.unodc.org/ungass2016) was established to enable global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner. Relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations were invited to send written contributions. More than 100 entities provided contributions. In addition to its regular sessions and intersessional meetings, the Commission organized lunchtime discussions, special events and side events in preparation for the special session.

7. The Commission fine-tuned the organizational arrangements for the special session and the five interactive round tables through the adoption of its resolution 58/8 at its fifty-eighth regular session and decision 58/16 at its reconvened fifty-eighth session.

8. Concerning the elaboration of the outcome document of the special session, by September 2015 Member States had provided, at the invitation of the Board, more than 180 pages of proposals for consideration. Those proposals provided the basis for the drafting of an "elements paper", which was fine-tuned during the fourth quarter of 2015.

9. Drawing on the feedback received on the "elements paper", a first draft of the outcome document was circulated in January 2016. The draft was further elaborated during a number of intersessional meetings and many rounds of open-ended informal consultations.

10. The text was approved by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session in March 2016, in resolution 59/1, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016", by which the outcome document,

[3] Detailed information on the preparations by the Commission is contained in the report on the progress made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (A/70/87-E/2015/79) and the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (A/S-30/4).

entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", was transmitted to the President of the General Assembly, and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session.

2. Outcome of the special session

11. The thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016, held six plenary meetings and five interactive round tables.

12. The General Assembly adopted resolution S-30/1, containing the outcome document "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", on 19 April 2016 at the opening of the special session. The outcome document consists of a comprehensive set of operational recommendations covering the following areas:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues;

(b) Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

(c) Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation;

(d) Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities;

(e) Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments;

(f) Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility;

(g) Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues.

13. In the closing paragraph of the outcome document, Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations.

14. The chairs' summaries of the salient points raised in the five round tables, held in parallel to the general debate, are available online at www.unodc.org/ungass2016.

B. Action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

15. During the regular part of its fifty-ninth session, held from 17 to 22 March 2016, the Commission considered issues related to the scheduling of substances in accordance with the international drug control conventions and other matters arising from those treaties, strategic management, budgetary and administrative matters, recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and matters relating to the Economic and Social Council.

16. The Commission decided to include acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include MT-45 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. Furthermore, the Commission decided to include *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The Commission also decided to include α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP), *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) and methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. The Commission further decided to include phenazepam in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention.

17. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the draft resolution entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development" for adoption by the General Assembly.

18. The Commission adopted the following seven resolutions, covering a broad range of issues: "Outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the Abu Dhabi declaration"; "Promoting informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem"; "Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders"; "Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes"; "Promoting prevention strategies and policies"; "Promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences of an appropriate nature in implementing drug control policies"; and "Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants".

C. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies

19. Five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2015: the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Brussels from 22 to 25 June; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 5 to 9 October; the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October; and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November.

20. The subsidiary bodies addressed issues of priority in drug law enforcement in their regions and reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions. They also made recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on various aspects of drug supply and demand reduction, including in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of a draft resolution annexing the Abu Dhabi declaration. The documentation related to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies is available on the web page of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

III. Support to Member States in thematic areas

A. Prevention, treatment and other health-related issues

1. Prevention of drug abuse and treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration

21. With regard to prevention of drug use, UNODC continued to promote the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, and trained policymakers on how to support the evaluation of prevention of drug use, involving a total of more than 280 participants from more than 30 countries. The programme continued its ongoing work, piloting evidence-based drug prevention interventions with families and in schools. During 2015, implementation took place in 13 additional countries, 2,500 family members and 2,100 students participated, 300 facilitators and 240 teachers were trained to work with families and students and 30 trainers were trained with a view to sustaining the programme in the long term.

22. The initiative "Listen First" was launched to raise the profile of evidence-based prevention with the involvement of more than 40 Member States (www.unodc.org/listenfirst). The high-level event on the "Listen First" campaign, held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, reached more than 5,000 people worldwide, including via the Internet. In conducting its work on this initiative, the Office works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), which is one of the co-sponsors of the "Listen First" campaign and is collaborating with UNODC and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the development of guidelines to address substance use in the education sector.

23. The UNODC Youth Initiative continued to mobilize young people through social media and with the support of grants from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan (reaching more than 1.5 million young people in 17 countries). A youth forum with participants from 27 countries was organized in the margins of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at which a collective statement was delivered in a plenary meeting of the Commission. The same statement was also delivered by one of the participants of the youth forum during the general debate at the 2016 special session.

24. Through its country and regional programmes, UNODC supported additional drug prevention and drug dependence treatment in more than 50 countries, most

significantly in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, countries of East Africa, Nigeria and the countries of the Andean region.

25. As far as the work relating to drug dependence treatment is concerned, a draft paper entitled "International standards for the treatment of drug use disorders", developed by UNODC and WHO, was presented at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and at the special session of the General Assembly. The standards were endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 59/4 and by the General Assembly in the outcome document of the 2016 special session.

26. Following the first hearing of the informal scientific network in the margins of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2015, the Commission, in its resolution 58/7, invited UNODC to continue the initiative of the informal scientific network. In that context, UNODC supported the second hearing of that initiative aimed at facilitating dialogue among academia, policymakers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and practitioners, which took place during the special session of the General Assembly.

27. In December 2015, UNODC and WHO organized a scientific consultation with more than 30 scientists, for more than 200 policymakers, presenting the latest scientific developments with regard to drug prevention and treatment.

28. In addition, the UNODC-WHO programme on drug dependence treatment and care continued to support the improvement of services in more than 20 countries, training 700 service providers in 2015.

2. Prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

29. UNODC assisted Member States, civil society organizations and other partners in 24 countries in developing, adopting and implementing strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS as related to drug use, particularly for people who inject drugs, in line with the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*.

30. The Office developed, adopted and implemented HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support policies and programmes in the criminal justice system in 33 countries. Those efforts were in line with the policy brief on "HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings: a comprehensive package of interventions", which was developed by UNODC, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

31. Partnerships between the law enforcement sector and civil society organizations were enhanced, and training on drug use and HIV was institutionalized as part of the curricula of national police academies by implementing a training programme, which reached over 2,100 law enforcement officers and representatives of civil society and community-based organizations in the health, social, educational and justice sectors in 21 countries.

32. Through the awarding of seven grants for strategic initiatives in HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and in prison settings, UNODC increased the capacity of civil society organizations.

33. UNODC programmes enhanced the skills of government and civil society staff in monitoring and evaluation of interventions for HIV prevention among people who inject drugs, consistent with the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users* on such interventions. Those programmes also improved the availability and quality of data on injecting drug use and HIV, for example, through implementing a joint project with the World Bank.

34. UNODC also contributed to the development of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, which was adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its thirty-seventh meeting, held in Geneva from 26 to 28 October 2015.

3. Availability of and access to controlled substances for medical purposes

35. The Office continued the implementation of the joint global programme on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes that was launched in 2013. The joint global programme ensures coordination and collaboration between three organizations, each with unique expertise: UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control.

36. The work of the joint global programme is also supported at the local level by partners such as the International Atomic Energy Agency through its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, drawing on the involvement of the regional offices of participating organizations, key government representatives and local civil society leaders. The objective is to create an environment in which the patient's medical needs are the basis for pharmacological interventions, including appropriate medical use of a spectrum of pain medication. To this end, the programme is aimed at reducing regulatory impediments, addressing attitudes and raising awareness of barriers to procurement, making advocacy efforts in communities, increasing the capacity of health-care professionals to implement a comprehensive approach and supporting policies that ensure a safe delivery without misuse, abuse and diversion.

37. During the reporting period, the joint programme piloted, in Ghana and Timor-Leste, a package of measures to increase access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, while preventing misuse, abuse and diversion. The package includes legislative and policy reviews, building the capacity of health-care professionals to address the challenges of meeting the medical needs of patients, including the management of pain and palliative care, and increasing awareness at the community level, including patient and family education.

B. Responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

1. Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

38. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States and their law enforcement and judicial authorities to support their efforts in combating illicit drug trafficking, strengthening border control and countering the laundering of the proceeds of crime. That assistance was provided in support of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption.

39. UNODC delivered technical assistance to build the counter-narcotics capacity of the competent national agencies in South-East Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia, East and West Africa and Central and South America, acting in support of domestic and regional efforts to improve coordination in responding to and sharing information on transnational drug trafficking groups and those engaged in attempts to divert precursor chemicals.

40. At the regional and interregional levels, UNODC continued to support Member States in forming operational informal networks of prosecutors and central authorities to facilitate international cooperation, such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus.

41. Cooperation among law enforcement agencies is promoted through the UNODC programmes, inter alia, through the establishment of and support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and the Gulf Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. UNODC is working with the States of South Asia and West Africa to establish similar regional platforms for law enforcement cooperation.

42. UNODC has launched a new Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, which includes the "networking the networks" initiative to establish operational links between international and regional law enforcement centres and organizations, as well as with regional cooperation platforms for prosecutorial and central authorities and financial intelligence units. The above-mentioned initiative is aimed at promoting the sharing of information and criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting all types of organized crime, including drug trafficking and illicit financial flows. The programme also includes an initiative on building a network of law enforcement training institutions (Law Enforcement TrainNet), focused on building a cooperation network of specialized training and educational institutions through the exchange of training curricula, training materials, training methodologies, best practices and trainers, potentially leading to the joint development of training tools and materials.

43. UNODC engages in close cooperation with the World Customs Organization through the Container Control Programme SEA, addressing the security of maritime trade supply to prevent illicit trafficking. The initiative has been adopted by 30 Member States in more than 50 operational ports. In 2015, the Container Control Programme AIR was developed and piloted in Pakistan, to address the security of the supply chain in air cargo, in partnership with the World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization. Roll-out in further countries is planned in the near future. In addition, the Airport Communication Project of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) focuses on intercepting air passengers engaged in illicit trafficking.

2. Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities

44. Through its Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC helped build capacity in the areas of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for 66 requesting countries in nine subregions. That assistance was delivered through training, international conferences and substantive legal reviews.

45. Ongoing assistance by UNODC included tailored training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs and border control agencies. The training addressed the practical and operational aspects of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the disruption of illicit financial flows. The awareness-raising initiative entitled "responsible and secure commerce alliance" in Colombia targeted commercial companies.

46. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa.

47. UNODC also continued to update the website of the International Money-Laundering Information Network and its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database. In addition, UNODC further expanded the database.

48. Together with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Monetary Fund, UNODC continued updating the current model provisions for common-law legal systems on money-laundering, terrorist financing, preventive measures and the proceeds of crime.

49. UNODC recently developed technical assistance tools to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters, including the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool and tips for investigators and prosecutors for requesting electronic evidence from foreign jurisdictions. The knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Organized Crime (SHERLOC) is being expanded and includes case law and legislation databases. It also hosts the directory of competent national authorities, which facilitates international cooperation and related matters.

C. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights

1. Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society, and communities

50. UNODC is supporting Member States in mainstreaming a gender perspective into drug policies, in conformity with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and other relevant standards and norms. Its work on gender in the criminal justice system includes efforts to promote non-custodial measures for women offenders and improve the treatment of women prisoners, including those accused of or imprisoned for drug offences.

51. In 2015, the Office supported five countries in this area, including Afghanistan (vocational skills workshop for female prisoners); Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (drafting of a plan for women prisoners); Mexico and Nepal (assessment of women's prisons); and Panama (campaign to raise awareness of the special needs of women deprived of liberty). UNODC also developed an e-learning module on non-custodial measures for women offenders and contributed to the development of training modules for correctional staff and trainers on the management of women prisoners in South-East Asia.

52. UNODC also released the *Guidelines for Drug Use Prevention and Drug Treatment for Girls and Women*, aimed at informing and encouraging policymakers and other stakeholders to implement evidence-based prevention and treatment strategies in order to provide the skills and opportunities to prevent the initiation of unhealthy behaviours as well as optimal support to those with drug use disorders in a gender-sensitive framework.

53. UNODC continued to advance the global dialogue on and focused on advocacy for gender-responsive HIV programmes — including access to opioid substitution and other evidence-based drug dependence treatment — aimed at ensuring equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services for women who use drugs and female prisoners, and for female sexual partners of men who inject drugs.

54. The Office also supports Member States in implementing age-appropriate practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant standards and norms, such as the Riyadh Guidelines. UNODC continued to work with children exposed to drugs at a very young age. Treatment and social protection interventions were delivered in five countries, along with capacity-building support. For example, the strengthening families programme of UNODC is aimed at preventing risk factors from resulting in the commission of crime and drug abuse among young people by strengthening parenting skills. In the area of justice for children, UNODC supported over 10 countries, for example by enhancing the capacity of criminal justice officials with respect to diversion from the criminal justice system, alternatives to imprisonment, restorative justice and conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty.

55. Family skills drug use programmes developed by UNODC have been shown to contribute to reducing violence and preventing crime. UNODC is also developing a policy framework on safety and security in cities that focuses on the linkages between transnational organized crime and local vulnerabilities to crime, including inequality and social exclusion.

2. Proportionate and effective policies and responses

56. UNODC continued to offer legal advice to Member States on the implementation of the international drug control conventions, including the need for proportionate sentencing. The Office also promoted the use and application of non-custodial measures in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), including for drug offences in cases of an appropriate nature. UNODC, together with WHO, launched an initiative aimed at identifying available experiences and practices of treatment and care for persons

with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, as alternatives to conviction or punishment. This initiative utilized expert consultations and the development of a publication.

57. In Indonesia, UNODC conducted a legal assessment of the national drug policy focusing on alternatives to imprisonment. In Colombia, the Office promoted alternatives to imprisonment for cases of low-level drug trafficking and drug use, and provided assistance to a technical committee on criminal policy led by the Ministry of Justice.

58. The Office drafted a training manual for policymakers on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders, which was piloted in a regional training programme for five countries. This manual targets policymakers in the areas of social welfare, health care, education and prevention, drug control, law enforcement and the criminal justice system and offers scientific information to be used in the development and oversight of integrated drug demand reduction strategies.

59. UNODC stepped up support for the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) through the establishment of a new global programme on addressing global prison challenges covering the period 2016-2019. The Office provided capacity-building and other assistance to over 15 countries, with a view to addressing prison overcrowding, strengthening prison management, improving prison conditions, improving access to treatment, and supporting the social reintegration of offenders upon release.

D. New trends in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including new psychoactive substances

1. Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors

60. New psychoactive substances continue to emerge worldwide at an unprecedented pace. By December 2015, the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances had registered the emergence of over 644 substances in 102 Member States and territories, up from 272 substances in 83 Member States at the end of 2012. The global market continued to be very dynamic and to be dominated by synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones. Several Member States developed national legislative responses to new psychoactive substances and established national early warning systems to increase their preparedness to respond to the threat.

61. The challenge of detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances, coupled with the sheer number of substances on the market, poses a major obstacle for effective health and treatment interventions and law enforcement efforts. Further to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/4, entitled "Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances", the UNODC thematic programme on scientific and forensic services has been providing Member States with the tools required for detection and identification of new psychoactive substances, including through provision of chemical reference

standards, analytical methodology, training, and also through facilitating international cooperation in sharing of analytical data using its early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances.

62. In 2014, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants reached a record high. The regions of North America and East and South-East Asia continued to account for the majority of global methamphetamine seizures, and seizures in East and South-East Asia remained at record levels. Global seizures of amphetamine were concentrated in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, where authorities continued to seize significant quantities of Captagon tablets. Seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances more than doubled in 2014, driven by strong increases in South-East Asia and Oceania.

63. In terms of precursor chemicals, the International Narcotics Control Board continued to identify new challenges stemming from the sophistication, diversification and scale of illicit manufacturing operations and from the sourcing of chemicals, including the emergence of designer precursors made specifically to circumvent controls. Additional challenges were posed by global developments not specific to precursor control but with significant implications for it, such as changes in trade relations, communication and transportation.[4]

2. New trends, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, data collection and research

64. UNODC continued to assist various Governments in the monitoring of illicit crops and production of drugs. In 2015, technical support was provided to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru for the monitoring of coca bush cultivation; to Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation; and to Mexico for monitoring opium poppy and cannabis plant cultivation.

65. UNODC also continued supporting countries in the design and implementation of drug use surveys. In 2015, ongoing technical assistance was provided for both a national household drug use survey and a problem drug use survey in Nigeria, as well as a national survey of health behaviours in Myanmar. These surveys will be finalized by the end of 2016. UNODC is also supporting Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in the design of surveys among young people. These surveys will be implemented over the course of 2016.

66. The *World Drug Report 2016* highlighted the world drug problem in terms of cultivation, production, trafficking, consumption of drugs and their health consequences in different regions and globally. Considering that the world drug phenomenon is intertwined with a vast array of social and economic issues, one of the chapters of the *World Drug Report 2016* examined, in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, the interplay between the drugs phenomenon and the broader development context and provided a detailed analysis of the relationship between drugs and sustainable development with a view to enabling the development of improved evidence-based responses.

67. Within the framework of the Afghan opiates trade project, a baseline assessment of trafficking of Afghan opiates through Africa was finalized. The main

[4] See E/INCB/2014/4.

objective of the report was to provide an initial evidence base to support policymakers and law enforcement officials in evaluating the trafficking of Afghan opiates into and across Africa, and to allow the development of effective responses to the issue.

68. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, a global Internet-based platform to monitor, analyse and report trends on new psychoactive substances, in the framework of the global SMART programme, continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs an ' Drug Addiction as well as WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

69. UNODC continues its efforts to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote collaboration among them for the detection and identification of drugs, including new psychoactive substances, through the development of manuals and guidelines on procedural approaches, the use of UNODC reference standards, and participation in the international collaborative exercise for national laboratories and assistance activities, in which 200 laboratories from 66 Member States currently participate.

E. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

70. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach.

71. In this regard, Member States highlighted the need to strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with UNODC, as well as with WHO and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem.

72. UNODC stands ready to support Member States in their efforts to implement the commitments made in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and is currently in a process of analysing the outcome document and considering how it can further strengthen its assistance to Member States, upon request, and in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, in particular other relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, with a view to helping them effectively address these various aspects of

the world drug problem, also, in particular, in the implementation of concrete operational initiatives on the ground.

73. In the outcome document, Member States further recommended strengthening, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners from different fields and at all levels to effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects and to consider additional measures to further facilitate meaningful discussion among those practitioners. UNODC is in the process of considering how these various aspects of the world drug problem can also be dealt with most appropriately within the meetings of the regional subsidiary bodies of the Commission, starting with facilitating discussions on cross-cutting issues such as "drugs and women" and "drugs and youth" during the meetings of these subsidiary bodies in 2016.

74. With reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States encouraged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the outcome document of the special session to contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, within its mandates, bearing in mind the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, and to make that information available to the high-level political forum on sustainable development through the appropriate institutional framework, taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1.

75. Upon the invitation of the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs provided substantive input to the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, showcasing in particular its contribution for the Sustainable Development Goals and respective targets that are substantially related to its mandate, focusing on the theme of the 2016 high-level forum: "Ensuring that no one is left behind". A web page has been created on which the contributions of the Commission to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are posted.[5]

76. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC were encouraged to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes. The work of the Commission in the period leading up to the thirtieth special session was enriched through the many technical contributions from relevant United Nations entities, in the form of both written contributions and oral presentations. It is hoped that the Commission will continue to benefit from this broad variety of valuable input in the future.

[5] Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html.

F. International cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy, including alternative development and addressing socioeconomic issues

77. UNODC continued to promote alternative development at the policy and technical assistance levels and supported Member States in providing economically viable, legal alternatives to poor rural communities involved in illicit cultivation of coca bush, opium poppy or cannabis plant.

78. In November 2015, the Government of Thailand, in cooperation with UNODC and the Government of Germany, co-organized the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, an international conference on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. Participants recognized that alternative development contributed to and created conditions conducive to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.

79. Also in November 2015, in the margins of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development meeting, UNODC and the Government of Germany jointly hosted the third expert group meeting on alternative development, following the 2013 and 2014 meetings. A conference room paper, entitled "Towards development-oriented drug policies: alternative development in the UNGASS 2016 process", was developed, aimed at informing the discussions at the special session of the General Assembly and framing the agenda after the special session, placing alternative development in the broader context of security and development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

80. In cooperation with the Governments of Germany and Thailand, UNODC continued to promote alternative development by organizing high-level side events at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and at the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

81. UNODC work on alternative development in the Andean region has moved from a focus on subsistence farming and food security to long-term cash crops and the establishment of farmer associations with a solid presence in international markets, particularly in Colombia and Peru. In Colombia, in addition to the global marketing of products, alternative development is recognized as an integral part of the national peace process. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the programmes combine agricultural production with off-farm skills training.

82. UNODC projects in South-East Asia continued to strike a balance between short-term food security needs and long-term agricultural sustainability. These included land registration and titling processes to assure the long-term investment of farmers in the projects. In Myanmar, the first farmer coffee cooperative was established, with over 80 tons of high-quality coffee to be exported to markets in South-East Asia.

83. Working together with the Royal Project Foundation, the UNODC programme in the Lao People's Democratic Republic strengthened its agricultural support by implementing innovative farming technologies to produce off-season fruits and vegetables for local markets.

84. In Afghanistan, UNODC continued to work closely with the Government to support small-scale land stabilization and irrigation projects as well as agricultural projects and programmes geared towards empowering women.

IV. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

85. At the fifty-eighth reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States took note of Economic and Social Council decision 2015/234, extending the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the first half of 2017, and elected its co-chairs. The working group continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas such as strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation and the financial situation of the Office.

86. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2016-2017 totals $651.1 million, of which 6.9 per cent comes from regular budget funds and 93.1 per cent from extrabudgetary resources. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with the general-purpose income predicted to reach a mere 1.7 per cent of total income in 2016. Low levels of non-earmarked or soft-earmarked funding represent a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on the management, coordination and normative functions.

87. The consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 builds on the lessons learned since the launch of the funding model of full cost recovery, namely the need to cost programme delivery transparently, fairly and consistently; use funding sources for their intended purposes; and seek ways to realize cost efficiencies. The continued implementation of full cost recovery in the biennium 2016-2017 remains essential to ensuring the financial sustainability of the Office.

88. In the biennium 2014-2015, UNODC introduced major initiatives to strengthen the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution; those initiatives include the United Nations Secretariat-wide enterprise resource planning system (Umoja), implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and the framework of engagement of external parties and enterprise risk management.

89. At the first UNODC annual appeal event, held in Vienna on 25 February, UNODC presented the funding needs for the biennium 2016-2017 and highlighted the resources necessary to assist Member States in countering drugs, crime and terrorism. The event took place in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighted how UNODC mandates are linked to attaining sustainable and equitable opportunities for all.

90. Pledges for voluntary contributions reached $325 million in 2015, while a decline is projected for 2016. Among the largest donors are Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Panama, Qatar, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

91. General-purpose contributions further declined to $4.4 million in 2015, and a similar level is anticipated for 2016. General-purpose funds were almost exclusively provided by the following donors: Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Thailand and United States.

92. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Office had been strengthening its results-based strategic planning efforts to focus on assisting Member States to develop coherent and integrated approaches to organized crime, illicit trafficking, corruption and terrorism and its root causes, as well as approaches to addressing the world drug problem and promoting a fully balanced approach to the implementation of the drug conventions within a human rights-based framework. A wide range of platforms and tools were being developed to foster integrated system-wide approaches.

93. The Office is undertaking a comprehensive exercise to revitalize its inter-agency affairs portfolio with a view to enhancing field-level impact and ensuring effective collaboration with the other United Nations agencies in delivering technical assistance, upon request.

94. UNODC continues to fine-tune and improve the integrated programming approach focusing on the integration of global programme components into regional and country programmes and interregional programme cooperation. Essential to this approach is the development of regional and country programmes, since it enables the Office to respond to Member States' priorities in a participatory and sustainable manner. In 2015, the Office launched the regional programme for Central Asia and the revised country programmes for Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of). This brings the total number of integrated programmes to 18, comprising 9 regional programmes and 9 country programmes.

95. The Independent Evaluation Unit evaluates the portfolio of UNODC according to universal standards and norms set by the United Nations Evaluation Group and cooperates with auditing activities to ensure efficiencies in oversight. The Unit has invested in information technology, capacity-building, norms and standards, setting high-quality benchmarks that also focus on gender and human rights, and giving assurances and recommendations on project and programme performance to Member States and UNODC senior management. The number of major, programmatic, in-depth evaluations increased from 2 such evaluations in 2011 to 11 in 2015, and compliance with UNODC evaluation requirements increased from 40 per cent in 2011 to 75 per cent in 2014.

V. Recommendations

96. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions:

(a) Call upon Member States to take the necessary steps to implement the operational recommendations in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental

organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations;

(b) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to effectively assist Member States in implementing the recommendations of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to promoting comprehensive, coherent and balanced responses, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders;

Prevention, treatment and other health-related issues

(c) Urge the international community to take concerted and immediate action to strengthen the quality and increase the coverage of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services that are based on scientific evidence and human rights in order to meet target 3.5 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the commitments made in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem;

(d) Call on Member States to significantly and urgently intensify efforts in their responses to HIV among people who use drugs, including in prison settings, and implement evidence-based and human rights-based interventions to deliver the greatest impact;

(e) Urge Member States to embrace the recommendations of the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and to ensure access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, including most notably for the treatment of pain as an essential component of the right to health in the context of a balanced drug control system;

Responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

(f) Call on Member States to provide each other with the widest possible mutual legal assistance as provided for under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

(g) Call on Member States, when investigating the crimes of money-laundering, to also conduct parallel financial investigations and to follow the money trails, with the ultimate aim of depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime through confiscation measures;

(h) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the forensic capacity of Member States to identify the recently scheduled substances in seized material and biological samples in support of evidence-based policy development;

(i) Recommend that Member States further strengthen regional, interregional and international cooperation in addressing and dismantling drug trafficking and organized crime networks through, inter alia, enhanced exchange of information and intelligence and joint operations;

Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights

(j) Urge Member States to ensure non-discriminatory access to quality health, care and social services in prevention, care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, on a level equal to those available in the community, and ensure that women have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy;

(k) Urge Member States to implement age-appropriate practical measures, tailored to the specific needs of children, in the legislative, administrative, social, economic, cultural and educational sectors, including measures to provide them with opportunities for healthy and self-sustained lives, in order to prevent their abuse of controlled drugs, and address their involvement, use and exploitation in the illicit cultivation of crops and the production, manufacturing and trafficking of controlled drugs;

(l) Call upon Member States to develop, adopt and implement alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, and to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, in accordance with the international drug control conventions;

New trends in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including new psychoactive substances

(m) Urge Member States to report data and information related to illicit drug trends regularly and in a timely manner to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through mandated data collection tools, in particular the annual report questionnaire and the individual drug seizure reports;

(n) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States that lack the capacity to monitor the drug situation with regard to illicit drug production, trafficking and drug use and related harm, as well as access to pain medication, with a view to increasing their capacity to formulate evidence-informed policies and programmes, and urge Member States to support the Office in that work;

(o) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue collaboration with national, regional and international partners in monitoring new psychoactive substances with respect to their composition, production, distribution and patterns of use, and encourage Member States to share relevant data and information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances using the web-based early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances;

International cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy, including alternative development and addressing socioeconomic issues

(p) Recommend that Member States redouble their efforts in mainstreaming alternative development into broader development programmes and facilitate the use of alternative development programmes to address cannabis plant cultivation;

Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(q) Encourage Member States to continue to actively participate in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(r) Call on Member States to support a strengthened culture of evaluation and accountability at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the evaluation function, to enable it to fully implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner, delivering key accountability services and products with a clear focus on gender and human rights;

(s) Urge Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;

(t) Urge Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with greater general-purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation in close coordination with partner countries and regional bodies.